

Washington State Legislature

February 24, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee Office of the Governor P.O. Box 40002 Olympia, WA 98504

Senator Andy Billig Senate Majority Leader 307 Legislative Building P.O. Box 40403 Olympia, WA 98504

Representative Laurie Jinkins Speaker of the House of Representatives 339C Legislative Building P.O. Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee, Senator Billig, and Speaker Jinkins:

We wrote to you on February 11 emphasizing the need to clearly define Phase 3 in the Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery plan and requesting a dialogue on Capitol campus security. Nearly two weeks later, we have still not heard any formal response from you or your staff.

We are again requesting that you consider the following:

- Clearly define Phase 3 in the Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery plan immediately. If not, the Legislature should. One absolute priority: Phase 3 must get our businesses back open at a minimum 50% capacity, so they have a reasonable chance of breaking even. Washingtonians have made great sacrifices for nearly a year now. Yet, they have been left in the dark on what the next steps are for their lives, communities, schools, and businesses. People deserve better from their state government.
- Remove the temporary fence around the Legislative Building. If not, be transparent with us, the public, and the media on what information is being used to justify its continued existence. We believe people should be allowed to peacefully assemble outside on the grounds of the Capitol campus including the steps of the Legislative Building. The public should be seen and heard, especially as important decisions impacting their lives are being made in the legislative session.
- Finally, please work with us to find long-term security solutions and protocols that safeguard our Capitol campus, but do not inhibit the public's access to their Legislative Building. We understand there has been an informal group meeting and some preliminary discussions have taken place, but we suggest these efforts be formalized and expanded to include the five corners, the Washington State Patrol, Enterprise Services, Secretary of State, Lieutenant Governor, State Treasurer, and a representative from the press houses.

We look forward to your response and again welcome a meeting with you to discuss the issues we have outlined above.

Sincerely,

Senator John Braun Senate Republican Leader Representative J.T. Wilcox House Republican Leader